United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea SPLOS/212

Meeting of States Parties

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Informal working group of the Bureau of the nineteenth Meeting of States Parties on the workload of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf

Possible elements for inclusion in the draft decision of the twentieth Meeting of States Parties on the workload of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf

1. In the decision of the twentieth Meeting of States Parties relating to the workload of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf, we may consider the inclusion of the following elements and request the Commission to adopt these measures on an urgent and priority basis from now until 2012, bearing in mind the need for the Meeting of States Parties to consider the cost implications of such measures:

(a) Flexible size of subcommissions;

(b) Extended meetings of subcommissions;

(c) More frequent meetings;

(d) Flexible meetings of plenary and subcommissions;

(e) Tasking subcommissions with a number of submissions (staggering of submissions);

(f) Remote work by Commissioners with the consent of the submitting State.

2. The Meeting of States Parties will make an assessment in 2011 on what measures beyond 2012 could be required to help reduce the projected timeline in the workload of the Commission.

3. In addition to the above, the following recommendations may also be included in the decision of the twentieth Meeting of States Parties:

(a) The Meeting of States Parties should continue to consider, including through the informal working group of the Bureau of the nineteenth Meeting of States Parties, the issue of the workload of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf, in particular to assess further measures that may be necessary,

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including the possibility of a full-time Commission, and report on its recommendations to the twenty-first Meeting of States Parties, in 2011;

(b) Urge the nominating States to fulfil their obligations with respect to the Commissioner nominated by them in accordance with annex II, article 2, paragraph 5, of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea;

(c) Call upon those States, which are in a position to do so, to make voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund set up for the purpose of defraying the cost of participation of the members of the Commission from developing States in the Meetings of the Commission;

(d) Encourage States, which are in a position to do so, to consider the possibility of providing medical coverage to the Commissioner nominated by them while performing Commission duties in New York.

[In addition, the working group discussed the following proposal, on which there was no agreement owing to the concern over a possible breach of the principle of confidentiality:

In accordance with annex II, article 3, paragraph 2, of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, and annex II of the Rules of Procedure, in particular those relating to confidentiality, the Commission, to the extent considered necessary and useful, may cooperate with the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, the International Hydrographic Organization and other competent organizations, with a view to exchanging scientific and technical information that might be of assistance in discharging the Commission's responsibilities.]